

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	1:20CR340-2
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE	:	PLEA AGREEMENT

NOW COME the United States of America, by and through Sandra J. Hairston, Acting United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina, Joseph Beemsterboer, Acting Chief, Criminal Division, Fraud Section, and the defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, in his own person and through his attorney, Bruce Alan Lee, and state as follows:

1. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, is presently under Second Superseding Indictment in case number 1:20CR340-2, which in Count One charges him with a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, attempt and conspiracy to commit fraud; which in Counts Three and Four charge him with violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 2, wire fraud; and which in Count Twelve charges him with a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1344(2) and 2, bank fraud.

2. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, will enter a voluntary plea of guilty to Count One of the Second Superseding Indictment herein. The nature of this charge and the elements of this charge, which must

be proved by the United States beyond a reasonable doubt before the defendant can be found guilty thereof, have been explained to him by his attorney.

a. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, understands that the maximum term of imprisonment provided by law for Count One of the Second Superseding Indictment herein is not more than twenty years, and the maximum fine for Count One of the Second Superseding Indictment herein is \$250,000. If any person derived pecuniary gain from the offense, or if the offense resulted in pecuniary loss to a person other than the defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, the defendant may, in the alternative, be fined not more than the greater of twice the gross gain or twice the gross loss unless the Court determines that imposition of a fine in this manner would unduly complicate or prolong the sentencing process. The fine provisions are subject to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3571, entitled Sentence of Fine.

b. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, also understands that as to Count One of the Second Superseding Indictment herein, the Court may include as a part of the sentence a requirement that the defendant be placed on a term of supervised release of not more than three years after imprisonment, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3583.

c. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, understands that the Court shall order, in addition to any other penalty authorized by law, that the defendant make restitution to any victim of the offense to which he is pleading guilty, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3663A(a)(1). The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, further agrees to pay restitution, as determined by the Court, to any victims harmed by defendant's relevant conduct, as defined by U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3.

d. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, further understands that the sentence to be imposed upon him is within the discretion of the sentencing Court subject to the statutory maximum penalties set forth above. The sentencing Court is not bound by the sentencing range prescribed by the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Nevertheless, the sentencing Court is required to consult the Guidelines and take them into account when sentencing. In so doing, the sentencing Court will first calculate, after making the appropriate findings of fact, the sentencing range prescribed by the Guidelines, and then will consider that range as well as other relevant factors set forth in the Guidelines and those factors set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a) before imposing the sentence.

e. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, understands that if he is not a citizen of the United States that entering a plea

of guilty may have adverse consequences with respect to his immigration status. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, nevertheless wishes to enter a voluntary plea of guilty regardless of any immigration consequences his guilty plea might entail, even if such consequence might include automatic removal and possibly permanent exclusion from the United States. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, further understands that in the event he is a naturalized citizen, entering a plea of guilty may result in denaturalization proceedings being instituted against him leading to his removal and possible permanent exclusion from the United States.

3. By voluntarily pleading guilty to Count One of the Second Superseding Indictment herein, the defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, knowingly waives and gives up his constitutional rights to plead not guilty, to compel the United States to prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, not to be compelled to incriminate himself, to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him, to have a jury or judge determine his guilt on the evidence presented, and other constitutional rights which attend a defendant on trial in a criminal case.

4. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, is going to plead guilty to Count One of the Second Superseding Indictment herein because he is, in fact, guilty and not because of any threats or promises.

5. The extent of the plea bargaining in this case is as follows:

a. Upon the acceptance by the Court of a guilty plea by the defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, to Count One of the Second Superseding Indictment herein, the United States of America will not oppose a motion to dismiss the remaining counts of the Second Superseding Indictment, as to the defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE. This portion of the Plea Agreement is made pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

b. It is understood that if the Court determines at the time of sentencing that the defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, qualifies for a 2-level decrease in the offense level under Section 3E1.1(a) of the Sentencing Guidelines and that the offense level prior to the operation of Section 3E1.1(a) is 16 or greater, then the United States will recommend a decrease in the offense level by 1 additional level pursuant to Section 3E1.1(b) of the Sentencing Guidelines. This portion of the Plea Agreement is made pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

c. The United States and the defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, agree that the following specific offense characteristics under Chapter 2B1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines apply:

i. A sixteen-level enhancement, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(1)(I), because the loss amount was more than \$1,500,000 and less than \$3,500,000.

ii. A two-level enhancement, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(10), because the offense involved the use of sophisticated means and the defendant intentionally engaged in or caused the conduct constituting sophisticated means.

This portion of the Plea Agreement is made pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

d. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, hereby abandons interest in, and consents to the official use, destruction, or other disposition of each item seized and/or maintained by any law enforcement agency during the course of the investigation, unless such item is specifically provided for in another section of this plea agreement. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, waives any and all notice of any proceeding to implement the official use, destruction, or other disposition of such items.

e. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, waives all rights, whether asserted directly or through a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any record pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case under the authority of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, and all subsequent amendments thereto.

f. Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence ordinarily limit the admissibility of statements made by a defendant during the course of plea proceedings. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, knowingly and voluntarily waives the protections of these rules as it relates to plea proceedings. If the defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, pleads guilty and later seeks to withdraw such guilty plea (or seeks to directly appeal or collaterally attack such conviction), any statement made at the plea proceedings in connection with such plea, and any leads derived therefrom, shall be admissible for any and all purposes.

g. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, entirely waives his right to collaterally attack his conviction and sentence on any ground and by any method, including but not limited to a 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion. The only exceptions are that the defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL

CARTLIDGE, may collaterally attack his conviction and sentence if: (1) the court enters a sentence above the statutory maximum; (2) the court enters a sentence based on an unconstitutional factor, such as race, religion, national origin, or gender; (3) the claim is based on ineffective assistance of counsel; or (4) the claim is based on prosecutorial misconduct not known to the defendant at the time of his guilty plea.

h. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, entirely waives his right to a direct appeal of his conviction and sentence on any ground (including any argument that the statute to which the defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional or that the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute). The only exceptions are that the defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, may file a direct appeal of his sentence if (1) the court enters a sentence above the statutory maximum, (2) the court enters a sentence based on an unconstitutional factor, such as race, religion, national origin, or gender; or (3) the government appeals the sentence.

6. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, agrees that pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3613, all monetary penalties, including restitution imposed by the Court, shall be due immediately upon judgment and subject to immediate enforcement by the United States. The defendant agrees that if the Court imposes a schedule of payments, the

schedule of payments shall be merely a schedule of minimum payments and shall not be a limitation on the methods available to the United States to enforce the judgment.

7. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, agrees that his debt resulting from the criminal monetary penalties due under the criminal judgment will be submitted to the Treasury Offset Program even if he is current in his payments under any Court imposed payment schedule.

8. It is further understood that the United States and the defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, reserve the right to bring to the Court's attention any facts deemed relevant for purposes of sentencing.

9. The defendant, JOSEPH MARSELL CARTLIDGE, further understands and agrees that pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, for any offense committed on or after October 11, 1996, the defendant shall pay an assessment to the Court of \$100 for each offense to which he is pleading guilty. This payment shall be made at the time of sentencing by cash or money order made payable to the Clerk of the United States District Court. If the defendant is indigent and cannot make the special assessment payment at the time of sentencing, then the defendant agrees to participate in the Inmate Financial Responsibility Program for purposes of paying such special assessment.

10. No agreements, representations, or understandings have been made between the parties in this case other than those which are explicitly set forth in this Plea Agreement, and none will be entered into unless executed in writing and signed by all the parties.

This the 31st day of July 2021.

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/S/CTB